

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 2-5 and 21-27; and amend Claims 1, 6, 9 and 18 as follows.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A shock absorber piston assembly, comprising:

a piston having a first face and an opposed second face, the piston defining a plurality of separate fluid passages allowing fluid communication through only the piston between the first face and the second face; [[and]]

a piston rod attached to the piston; and

a plurality of flow control devices each operably sealing at least one of the fluid passages, including:

a first bleed plate operably contacting the first face and a second bleed plate operably contacting the second face; [[and]]

a first blow-off disc operably contacting the first face and a second blow-off disc operably contacting the second face; and

a compression device operably maintaining each of the flow control devices in a closed position in contact with the piston; wherein

~~wherein~~ each of the flow control devices operably opens at an individually adjustable device opening pressure[.]; and

the compression device comprises a spring; wherein the spring comprises:

a spring engagement end fixedly engaged with a slot of the piston rod; and

a spring force distribution end in contact with the bleed plate.

2.-5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) The piston assembly of Claim [[3]] 1, wherein the compression device comprises at least one spring disc plate operably maintaining contact between each of the blow-off discs and the piston.

7. (previously presented) The piston assembly of Claim 6, further comprising a preload spacer connectably affixed to the piston rod and operably preloading the at least one spring disc plate.

8. (previously presented) The piston assembly of Claim 7, further comprising an interface disc located between the at least one spring disc plate and each of the blow-off discs.

9. (currently amended) A shock absorber fluid flow control assembly, comprising:

a piston having a first face and an opposed second face;

a first plurality of fluid passages isolable at the first face and a second plurality of fluid passages isolable at the second face, each of the first plurality of fluid passages having a different cross-sectional area and each of the second plurality of fluid passages having a different cross-sectional area; and

a first blow-off disc in displaceable contact with the first face to seal the first plurality of fluid passages and a second blow-off disc in displaceable contact with the second face to seal the second plurality of fluid passages;

wherein fluid pressure ~~acting on one of the first face and the second face~~ operably ~~acts through~~ within one of the first and second plurality of fluid passages acts to initially angularly displace and subsequently to fully open one of the blow-off discs.

10. (previously presented) The control assembly of Claim 9, further comprising a first bleed passage extending through the piston and isolable at the first face and a second bleed passage extending through the piston and isolable at the second face.

11. (previously presented) The control assembly of Claim 10, further comprising a first bleed plate operably contacting the first face and a second bleed plate operably contacting the second face.

12. (previously presented) The control assembly of Claim 11, further comprising:

at least one spring disc operably preloading each blow-off disc; and

at least one spring operably preloading each bleed plate.

13. (previously presented) The control assembly of Claim 12, further comprising a predetermined quantity of the spring discs operably forming an adjustable blow-off disc opening pressure.

14. (previously presented) The control assembly of Claim 12, further comprising a predetermined thickness of each of the spring discs operably forming an adjustable blow-off disc opening pressure.

15. (previously presented) The control assembly of Claim 9, further comprising a raised land operably forming a sealable end of each passage.

16. (previously presented) The control assembly of Claim 10, wherein each fluid passage is located adjacent to an outer diameter of the piston.

17. (previously presented) The control assembly of Claim 10, wherein each bleed passage is located interior to each fluid passage.

18. (currently amended) A shock absorber, comprising:
a piston tube;
a piston assembly slidably disposed within the piston tube and operably dividing the piston tube into a first working chamber and a second working chamber, the piston assembly including:

(i) a piston having a first face and an opposed second face, the piston defining a plurality of separate fluid passages allowing fluid communication through only the piston between the first face and the second face; and

(ii) a plurality of flow control devices each operably sealing at least one of the fluid passages, including:

(a) a first bleed plate operably contacting the first face and a second bleed plate operably contacting the second face; and

(b) a first blow-off disc operably contacting the first face and a second blow-off disc operably contacting the second face; [[and]]

a piston rod fastenably attached to the piston assembly[.]; and

a compression device operably maintaining each of the flow control devices in a closed position in contact with the piston; wherein

each of the flow control devices operably opens at an individually adjustable device opening pressure; and

the compression device comprises a spring; wherein the spring comprises:

a spring engagement end fixedly engaged with a slot of the piston rod; and

a spring force distribution end in contact with the bleed plate.

19. (previously presented) The shock absorber of Claim 18, wherein the piston tube comprises a first end fitting connectable to an axle assembly of an automobile vehicle.

20. (previously presented) The shock absorber of Claim 19, further comprising:

a second end fitting fixedly connectable to the piston rod and operably connecting the shock absorber to a vehicle body of an automobile vehicle.

21.-27. (cancelled)